Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade with a shank and a blade element having a front external surface and a rear external surface, said hockey stick blade comprising:

(a) a core made of thermo-expandable foam and extending along a longitudinal axis;

(b) a first layer of fibers ~~braid~~ at least partially wrapping over said core; said first layer of fibers being impregnated with a suitable resin; ~~and;~~

(c) a second layer of fibers at least partially wrapping over said first layer of fibers, said second layer of fibers being impregnated with a suitable resin; and

(d) a sheet of thermoplastic material covering at least partially said second layer of fibers ~~braid~~, said sheet of thermoplastic material forming part of one of said front and rear external surfaces of said blade element for increasing the impact resistance of said blade.

2. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 1, wherein said core comprises a blade element portion and a shank portion with a tenon portion.

3. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 2, wherein said first and second layers of fibers ~~braid~~ also ~~wraps over~~ cover said shank portion of said core.

4. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 3, wherein said sheet of thermoplastic material form part of said front and rear external surfaces of said blade element.

5. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 4, wherein said shank comprises a front external surface and a rear external surface and said sheet of thermoplastic material also forms part of one of said front and rear surfaces of said shank.

6. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheet of thermoplastic material is a front thermoplastic sheet and said blade further comprises a rear thermoplastic sheet, said front and rear thermoplastic sheets forming part of said respective front and rear external surfaces of said blade element and said shank.

7. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 6, wherein said ~~sheets of~~ thermoplastic sheets ~~material~~ are made of thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyurethane, polypropylene, polyester, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and cellulose acetate.

8. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 7, wherein said thermo-expandable foam is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) foam, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) foam, ethylene polypropylene foam and polyisocyanurate foam.

9. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 8, wherein said core comprises a first portion located above a second portion;

10. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein said first layer of fibers ~~braid~~ is a first fibers braid ~~covering said first portion and said blade further comprises~~ and said second layer of fibers is a second fibers braid ~~covering said second portion~~.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim ~~12~~ 9, wherein said ~~first, second, third and fourth fibers braids~~ first and second layers of fibers are made of woven fibers selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers, glass fibers, KEVLAR fibers, ceramic fibers, boron fibers, quartz fibers, spectra fibers, polyester fibers and polyethylene fibers.

14. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 13, wherein said ~~first, second, third and fourth fibers braids~~ first and second layers of fibers are made of fibers crossing at between 30° and 60°.

15. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 14, wherein said blade comprises an interface between said first and second portions, said interface comprising fibers oriented transversely relative to the longitudinal axis of said core.

16. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 15, wherein said shank comprises a tenon adapted to be inserted into a hollow hockey stick shaft.

17. (Previously presented) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 16, wherein one of said front and rear thermoplastic sheets comprises an indicia.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 1, wherein said sheet of thermoplastic material is devoid of fibers.

31. (New) A hockey stick blade with a shank and a blade element having a front external surface and a rear external surface, said hockey stick blade comprising:

(a) a core made of thermo-expandable foam and extending along a longitudinal axis;

(b) a first layer of fibers at least partially wrapping over said core; said first layer of fibers being impregnated with a suitable resin;

(c) a second layer of fibers at least partially wrapping over said first layer of fibers, said second layer of fibers being impregnated with a suitable resin; and

(d) front and rear thermoplastic sheets covering at least partially said second layer of fibers, said front and rear thermoplastic sheets forming part of said respective front and rear external surfaces of said blade element for increasing the impact resistance of said blade, said front and rear thermoplastic sheets being made of thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyurethane, polypropylene, polyester, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and cellulose acetate.

32. (New) A hockey stick blade as defined in claim 31, wherein said front and rear thermoplastic sheets are devoid of fibers.